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might be reached more quickly and effectively by a Conference.

The subject for discussion at the morning session was the Required or Freshman Latin course. A comparison of such courses in various Colleges in regard to the authors read was presented by Professor Brady, of Smith College, and in regard to Latin Composition by Professor Fletcher, of Wellesley College. During the discussion it was suggested that each College prepare two specimen courses—one for students who intend to go on with Latin and a second course for those who do not; in this way it might be possible to recognize more fully the claims of the latter class. The question of Honor Sections and the results of dividing large classes on a basis of scholarship was presented by Professor Palmer, of Vassar College, who gave an account of certain experiments attempted at Vassar.

The afternoon session was devoted to the consideration of Elective Courses, the discussion being opened by Professor Hawes, of Wellesley College. Various topics were taken up, such as whether courses should be planned for a semester or for a year, whether they should be based on individual authors or on literary periods, the need and the character of courses for teachers, the lecture method, especially in connection with general courses in Latin Literature, Rapid Reading, and Sight Reading. The question of Private Reading of authors was treated by Dr. Coulter, of Vassar College, who pointed out that the practice was not general in American Colleges. The propriety of counting such work towards the A.B. degree in the case of able students was discussed.

At the evening session Professor Saunders, of Vassar College, compared the value of marks given at the Regents' examinations and those given by The College Entrance Examination Board. It was shown that the marks of the Board were a much more reliable basis for predicting the marks of the Freshman year. Professor Taylor, of Mt. Holyoke College, discussed the Three-Unit Entrance Requirement for Latin, and Professor Walton, of Wellesley College, reported on the recent proposal of The College Entrance Examination Board in regard to the definition of entrance requirements. A statement was finally drawn by the Conference setting forth the united opinion of the four Colleges; this statement will appear in their forthcoming catalogues as the preferred form of definition for the entrance requirements in Latin.

The Conference was so far successful that the invitation of Professor Brady, of Smith College, to hold the next meeting at that College was accepted with alacrity by all present.

VASSAR COLLEGE.

J. L. MOORE.

THE CLASSICAL CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

The 133rd meeting of The Classical Club of Philadelphia was held on November 2, with 33 members present.

The paper of the evening was read by Professor W. Max Müller, of the University of Pennsylvania, on New Material for the Inner History of the Ptolemaic Kingdom. This material consists of epigraphical discoveries made by Professor Müller in the Island of Philae, just before the 'Pearl of Egypt' was obliterated by the Assouan Dam. The material was obtained with much difficulty. As Professor Müller said: "Life there in summer on a temple roof, alone, was not exactly a vacation". On November 1 the temperature was still 130° F. in the shade. To add to the difficulties, the inscriptions are a palimpsest on stone, hieroglyphs over demotic. But "all the treasures of Philae were rescued". The inscriptions throw light on the dark period of Ptolemaic history known to Greek writers as the 'disturbance'. This is shown to have been a formidable and successful uprising, resulting in the establishment of a dynasty of real kings who reigned in Southern Egypt for 25 or 30 years, though the Ptolemies were always in full possession of the delta. These kings were ultimately crushed by Ptolemy V. The Ptolemaic dynasty had, however, received a severe lesson, and from the great 'disturbance' dates all the consideration shown by the Greeks to the Egyptian element of the population.

B. W. MITCHELL, *Secretary*.

XENOPHON, ANABASIS 1.8.20

A friend of mine, who, so far as I know, had no training in Greek or Latin in School or College, but has worked on both languages by himself, has been troubled by the account given by Xenophon, *Anabasis* 1.8.20, of the man who, at the battle of Cunaxa, was caught by a chariot, 'scared out of his wits as if in a hippodrome'. The Persian chariots, Xenophon says, 'were swept, some of them through our enemies themselves, some through the lines of the Greeks, but empty of drivers. Every time the Greeks saw the chariots coming, they opened ranks. One man, however, *κατελήφθη ὡς περ ἐν ἵπποδρόμῳ ἐκπλαγείς*. And yet they told us that not even this man was injured'.

My friend asked, How could a man be caught in the hippodrome? He was thinking, I suspect, of the hippodrome in terms of modern life, or in terms of the Roman circus, that is he visualized the hippodrome as a course entirely enclosed, and therefore found it difficult to imagine how any one could be down upon the course. I find nothing in the editions to resolve his difficulty. It would be possible, of course, to suppose that Xenophon was thinking of an attendant, a servitor of the hippodrome, as caught off his guard. As a matter of fact, however, frequently the hippodrome in ancient times was only a level space, fitted out at the actual time of the races with proper turning-posts, but not further. On this point see E. N. Gardiner, *Greek Athletic Sports and Festivals*. The situation, in the hippodrome, under such circumstances, was not at all like that in the circus at Rome, for example, but rather like that on Long Islan when the Vanderbilt Cup Races are held there. If I remember correctly, a couple of years ago one or more persons were killed because effective measures had not been taken to prevent spectators from straying upon the course.

C. K.